

February 14, 2010

TO: FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
and Mary Valentine, Chair

FROM: Sally Borghese

RE: SB 891, SB 892, and SB 893

I am forwarding written testimony, regarding the above mentioned bills. These bills appear to be another protection for the Michigan Children's Institute Superintendent, Bill Johnson.

It was shortly after Detroit Attorney Sherrie Ross represented grandmother Connie Harvey of Grand Rapids in a Section 45 Hearing, that these bills seemed to appear. Attorney Ross had questioned Bill Johnson, during sworn testimony, as to who did the investigation on the case and made the decision to deny Harvey the right to adopt her grandson. The answer was that someone in his office made the evaluation and decision. It was not even stated that Johnson's assistant had made the decision.

Who are the staff of the M.C.I.'s office? In fact, what qualifications or formal education does Johnson himself have to decide direction for the lives of children? Who made the decision to deny Harvey and what was that decision based upon?

Who does Johnson report to? I asked that question of Justice Corrigan and her reply was, "I guess the legislature". Really?! So not even the director of CPS? Johnson stands alone?

Therefore, who will Johnson delegate children's fate to? Perhaps a secretary? Perhaps an intern? Maybe a janitor? The bills do not designate required qualifications of those that will handle cases.

The proposed bills do not appear to require that anyone with any formal education in a field of social work, let alone someone with psychology education or similar be required to evaluate what is going to happen with a young life.

A couple of years ago during a committee meeting, Senator Mark Jansen went out of his way to state to me that his committee would be looking into the words 'arbitrary and capricious' regarding a Section 45 Hearing. Those two words are the only way to challenge the decisions of the M.C.I. Superintendent. In other words are case decisions by the M.C.I. made arbitrarily and capriciously?

It is almost impossible to prove that any decision was made arbitrarily and capriciously! Therefore, the M.C.I. decisions made regarding the direction of a child's life really cannot be challenged. So perhaps it really does not matter if the janitor decides. Actually, perhaps a janitor could make a better decision, a more evaluated and caring decision. One has to wonder whatever has happened to just plain right or wrong, in any decision!

Has anyone ever investigated the decisions of the M.C.I. office? Has anyone ever looked into the number of denials for relatives to adopt? Is it possible that Michigan has so many unfit relatives, that children need to have new families? After all, has not the Michigan Legislature recently passed law that relatives should be the first consideration to adopt children if parents can no longer parent?

Does anyone really look into what any of the denials are based upon? Does anyone realize that there are few true evaluations, if any, done in the M.C.I. office? Rubber stamping of CPS and its contracted agency removal of a child is the norm from the M.C.I. office! After all, if the office makes close to 3,000 case decisions each year and the office has a staff of only 4 persons, including secretaries, is anyone doing anything except rubber stamping cases for federal funding? Social Security Title IV provides paychecks from the beginning CPS social worker all the way to the judge that also rubber stamps the case.

THEREFORE, IS MICHIGAN LEGALLY KIDNAPPING AND TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN TO PROVIDE THE STATE REVENUE? Not only Michigan, but every state in the nation! There are millions of families that have been destroyed because of the federal funding provided by the Adoption and Safe Families Act! Walter Mondale had stated at the proposal of the act that he could see the states could make a business of the act. Michigan has proven to be no exception!

The National Center on Abuse and Neglect in Washington D.C. has reported that state care is responsible for children dying 6 to 7 times faster than in parental care. Also, that abuse and neglect happens more in state care than parental care.

So basically, children are removed from family and sold into any other family, just for that federal funding! If a parent cannot be criminally prosecuted for abuse or neglect, then why should they lose their children? Why isn't the state there to assist those parents in whatever assistance they need? There certainly is money available for that assistance and it would cost the taxpayers far less.

Why are children removed because a parent has trouble paying the rent, or utilities, or because there might be a dirty house, etc? Being poor is no reason to destroy a family! Why not assist a parent to parent better? Parental and family bonding cannot be replaced! If it could, why do children leave foster care and go find their birth family?

**If SB 891, SB 892 and SB 893 are passed into law,
then Michigan has done nothing but given the office of The Michigan Children's Institute
another way to cover up the state's abuse of children!**

Sincerely,

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"CPS is the closest thing to the Gestapo in our society."
Judge Darryl Mazur - Jackson County - Michigan

**"There is no system ever devised by mankind that is guaranteed to rip husband and wife or
father, mother and child apart so bitterly than our present Family Court System."**
Judge Brian Lindsay - Retired Supreme Court Judge - New York

**"There is something bad happening to our children in family courts today
that is causing them more harm than drugs, more harm than crime
and even more harm than child molestation."**
Judge Watson L. White - Superior Court Judge - Georgia

"The CPS System needs to be abolished!"
Senator Nancy Schaeffer - Georgia